



Jerry W. Jackson, a volunteer physician from Birmingham, Ala., examines a Cambodian refugee in the hospital area of a camp near the Thailand-Cambodia border. He was part of a medical emergency team from Baptist Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand, which spent a week working with the refugees. The English-speaking doctors had to go through two interpreters to communicate with the refugees. When other family members stayed with their sick relatives the doctors often had to ask which person was the patient. (BP) photo by Martha Skelton.

Alliance Asks For Cash For Starving Cambodians

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Baptist World Alliance has asked its 115 member unions and conventions in 90 countries to contribute immediately to the relief of "a holocaust-by-

starvation," that has already claimed almost half the population of Cambodia.

Cambodia, a nation of South East Asia, had a population of eight million before military turmoil moved into the country to destroy factories, schools, hospitals, machines, farm instruments and fishing materials. Only 20 percent of the usual rice crop could be planted this year.

Robert S. Denny, general secretary of the BWA, said that the population has dropped to 4.7 million and that thousands of these are dying daily of malnutrition. He said that a consultation of the Overseas Development Council, held in Washington October 24, termed the tragedy "a second holocaust," comparable with the death of Jews in Nazi Germany in the 1940s.

Denny attended the consultation, as did two representatives of U.S. Baptist mission agencies, W. Eugene Grubbs of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, and J. Chester Jump of the American Baptist Churches.

Jump, chairman of the BWA Division of Relief and Development, said the Cambodian appeal might conflict with special Christmas offerings for foreign missions conducted by some Baptist groups. "I would note, however," he said, "that the Cambodian tragedy represents an ongoing need

(Continued on Page 2)

Lottie Moon's Diary

Part II

(Continued excerpts of a diary missionary Lottie Moon kept one hundred years ago. It is condensed from the Western Recorder, which originally printed Miss Moon's notes about an evangelistic tour of rural North China.)

A VILLAGE IN NORTH CHINA — We are in a circular basin bounded on all sides by low hills. The country is rather pretty, dotted with fields of fresh-springing wheat. A river winds sluggishly along.

We had a busy time yesterday going to one village in the morning and another in the afternoon. We took our places at the base of a high wall. The tall native preacher stood up to address the audience; Mrs. C. and I sat down on the ground facing the people who circled around us in the costume of national blue. . . . Mrs. C. and I divided the crowd. I accepted an invitation to a house and had a good long talk to a number of women and children and very much enjoyed it.

On getting back to our quarters, the people came crowding in. I gave my last lesson to some girls I have been teaching for several days. It was touching, the universal regret expressed at our intended departure, and I own I felt more than usually sad to part from the little girls who have been so pleasant, affectionate, and eager to learn.

Why Curse Me?

We left there this morning and came here, where we propose remaining for several days. A woman cherished the bitter, if half-concealed aversion that so many of the city people feel towards us. During the conversation she spoke of our church building in Tungchow, applying to it unconsciously the epithet to which we so much object. (Chinese commonly called the missionaries "devils.") "Why do you thus curse me? In cursing me, you curse

yourself. We are all descended from the same first great ancestors. If I am a devil, what are you?" She colored deeply and tried to apologize. . . .

The people have been crowding in ever since we came asking the thousand usual questions. A child has been squalling, her mother scolding, and now Mrs. C. is telling her how wrong it is to curse her child, and indeed to curse at all. About twenty-five are present, mostly women and children, though the men come and go as they like. I must conquer my unwillingness to talk and be fingered, and teach the children. . . .

At one village this morning, I had a long, earnest talk with, or rather to, a group of men. I sometimes feel very serious doubts about the propriety of addressing a crowd, as we are sometimes almost forced to do, but to sit down quietly and talk in a conversational tone to thoroughly respectful

Maurice Flowers Named To Board Advisory Group

Maurice Flowers, director of missions, Jones County, Laurel, is one of ten directors of missions in the Southern Baptist Convention named as a special Associational Directors' Advisory Group for the Associational Missions Division of the Home Mission Board.

The group, named by William G. Tanner, executive director-treasurer, Home Mission Board, will serve one to three year terms and meet at intervals with the division. They will provide input, make suggestions and respond to certain areas as deemed advisable by the division and department directors.

They represent a balance among metropolitan, rural-urban, newer convention, older-convention, single staff and multi-staff associations.

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A Near 10 Percent Jump

Baptism Increase Leads 1978-79 SBC Projections

By Jim Lowry

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Initial projections from Southern Baptist churches indicate a significant rise in baptisms for the 1978-79 year, plus increases in mission expenditures, total receipts, Church Music and Brotherhood enrollments and church membership.

Losses are projected in Sunday School, Church Training and Woman's Missionary Union enrollments.

All of the projections are made on the basis of figures from three-fourths of Southern Baptist churches. Final figures, based on information from about 35,500 churches, will be released in February 1980, and will differ slightly from projected figures.

The baptism total is predicted to increase by 9.7 percent for the 1978-79 year after a loss last year of more than 9,000, or almost 3 percent. The projected increase this year represents more than 32,000 additional baptisms, bringing the total to more than 368,000. The upturn would end a three year decline.

Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, said the increase in baptisms is "significant, and establishes the direction for the year ahead. It is a

reflection of an added interest in the basic purpose of the churches in reaching people for Christ."

"Even with this advance," he added, "we are a great distance from accomplishing our goals of Bold Mission Thrust. Personal commitment and sacrifice are mandatory because there is so much to be done in the name of Jesus Christ."

Mission expenditures are expected to be up by 10.5 percent this year, bringing the total to nearly \$350.2 million—an increase of more than \$33 million. Total receipts of Southern Baptist churches should go over \$2.2 billion during the year an increase of 11.8 percent, or more than \$234 million.

Church Music has the largest projected program enrollment percentage increase, with 2.8 percent, or 38,891, to bring the Church Music total enrollment to more than 1,465 million. The increase continues a trend in Church Music enrollment, which has been rising since the first report in 1957, except for two years when changes were made in the reporting process.

William J. Reynolds, secretary of The Church Music department, said, "The splendid increase reported by the churches . . . reflects the excellent leadership of Church Music directors."

Missionaries Make Request For Prayer

Linda and David Finnell, Mississippians who have been appointed as missionaries to Malaysia, are in Bandung, Indonesia, studying the Malay language while they await their Malaysian visas.

David expects to teach at the Baptist seminary in Penang, Malaysia. Though he will be teaching primarily in English, he and Linda are learning Malay for use as a second language.

In recent years Malaysia has been reluctant to grant visas to missionaries, Finnell reports. Three other couples have made application for visas, and two of these have been waiting for over a year. One couple has

been waiting for about eight months.

Recently, however, two Methodist missionaries were approved as seminary professors in Malaysia in less than a month. They applied for their visas from Singapore. Finnell said, "Since we applied from Singapore as teachers, we hope to get quicker results than normal."

He added, "There are two reasons we are praying for an early visa (by Malaysian standards). First, the need at the seminary is overwhelming. Second, we have recently discovered that we can probably stay no longer than six months in Indonesia because of new visa regulations."

"We feel that the major factor in the granting of our visas is the amount of prayer support that we can gather. Since I have found that prayers are better answered when specific, we are praying that our visas will be approved by the first of the year. If you will, join with us in this specific prayer each day. It will definitely make a difference for us. Many have told us that it would take a miracle for our visas to be approved by then, but if enough people will pray, God just might grant that miracle."

The couple's address is: J.L. Kaptan Tandean 34, Bandung, Indonesia.

Baptist Men To Help Rebuild Dominica

More than 50 Mississippi men in six crews will be traveling to the Hurricane ravaged Island of Dominica in January and February to help rebuild homes for the islanders.

Virtually all buildings on the island in the Caribbean were demolished by Hurricane David which whipped through in August destroying all crops also.

The crews are responding to an urgent request from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to build small houses for the people on the island who have been left with no shelter. The entire project for January and February was committed to Mississippi by the state Brotherhood Department; Paul Harrell, director.

The work crews will be taking their own food and construction supplies to build simple 10' x 12' dwellings in several villages. Each crew of from eight to ten men will leave on a Saturday and return the following Saturday. Each man will be responsible for expenses which will total about \$600 per person.

Dates, groups, and their traveling coordinator include: Jan. 5-12, Leesburg Baptist Church, Rankin County; Ricky Kennedy; Jan. 12-19, Lee Association, Stanley Bryan, Tupelo; Jan. (Continued on Page 2)

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Brotherhood enrollment is estimated to post a one percent gain for the year, just over a 4,600 increase. That brings the total to more than 471,000.

James H. Smith, executive director of the Brotherhood Commission, expressed gratitude "for this growing commitment of men and boys to Christian missions as expressed by the increase in enrollment, and for the effort of state Baptist brotherhood leaders and others in presenting missions opportunities to churches with such conviction."

"It is my prayer that this growing interest is but a prelude to a mammoth

mobilization in the churches of men and boys for missions outreach and ministry during the 'Decade of the Laity' starting in 1980."

Church membership is projected to climb by 1.4 percent to a total of almost 13.4 million. The gain represents 184,758 new members in Southern Baptist churches, compared to an increase of 113,780 last year.

Woman's Missionary Union enrollment is projected to be down by one percent this year, to a total of 1,084,016. The loss represents almost 11,000.

"In January the executive board of the Woman's Missionary Union will (Continued on Page 2)



"Please Take Care Of Me"

This two-day-old baby was found lying in the nativity scene in front of First Baptist Church, Longview, Texas. With the baby was a note that said "I'm Timothy. Please take care of me." The infant was nicknamed Timothy Christmas and captured world attention. Pastor Charles Holland, who found him, said: "Because of this child, the basic human elements of love, affection, concern and compassion have been displayed. Through this action, God is telling us he is in our presence." The baby is shown with police captain Earl Claxton. Holland said he believes God was in the process of the discovery because that day, he was late getting to the office, and he entered by a route he never had taken. That combination placed him near enough and at the right time to hear and find the baby. Holland asked a reporter from a major network why he came to Longview to cover the story. The reporter's reply was, "Dr. Holland, the only good news in the world today is in Longview." (BP) photo by Darlene Clark.

Miss Jackson Will Speak, Sing At Youth Conference



Ring



Culliver

Janet Culliver, Miss Jackson, and second runner-up for the Miss Mississippi contest, and David Ring will be featured during the 1979 Youth Evangelism Conference, Dec. 27-28 in Jackson.

Culliver will give her Christian testimony and Ring, a Liberty, Miss., native, will preach at the conference which is to be held at Colonial Heights Baptist Church in Jackson.

The conference begins with registration 12-1 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 27. That afternoon will be a message by Joe Ford of the Home Mission Board, music by David Meece and Kay DeKalb, and testimonies and music from youths. The first seminar that afternoon will include a message entitled

"Know Him," by Randal Trull for the youths and discussion by David Rodgers and Don Witzell for the youth workers.

The evening sessions begin at 7 p.m. with the second seminar. This time the youth will hear Donn Poole on "Know Yourself." The workers' speakers continue.

From 8:30 that night to 10 will be the same speaker and musician from that afternoon with fresh messages.

The Friday program begins with a "Sunshine Show" led by Don Witzell at 8:30. At 9:15 a.m. Randal Trull will speak followed by music from Kay DeKalb and the Cruse Family, plus youth testimony and music. The second series of seminars begin at 10:45 and continue to noon.

At 1:30 p.m. Harry Blondheim, a former convict-turned Christian who does body building and youth speaking will be featured, followed by music by Kay DeKalb and the Cruse Family. The seminar is at 3:15-4:45.

The evening service features a special concert by the Cruse Family, a message by David Ring and music by Kay DeKalb and Janet Culliver.

The conference concludes at 8:30 that evening.

Harvard To Study Carey College And Its Approach To Survival

By J. Ralph Noonkester
President, William Carey College
Perhaps the old story about the fellow who went to Harvard is appropo here.

You remember that when he told his friend he was going he remarked, "Really, what will you be studying?" His answer was, "Oh, I won't be studying anything. They'll be studying me."

The application isn't entirely correct, because... even though William Carey College will be the object of a Harvard School of Education study in August, you can be assured that the Carey administration will be the most highly motivated students in the workshop!

Structured to explore the problems and challenges of small private colleges, the workshop will take as its project the analysis of a fictitious college named Davis College in Hen-

dricks, Mississippi, "70 miles from the State capital at Jackson, and 100 miles north of New Orleans."

Although the simulated situation about Davis College differs from Carey in a few minor references the similarities are so evident that Carey's president was not unduly surprised when he was introduced as "the president of Davis College" at the annual meeting of the American Council on Education in Houston in early November.

William Carey College is the actual case study which is currently being used in area workshops across the country by the Institute of Harvard's Graduate School of Education. The culmination of the project will take place August 6 on the Harvard campus as some of the best minds in the educational field will formulate suggestions and alternatives to be presented to the trustees of the fictitious Davis College.

Honored by the fact that their college was selected as a typical small private educational challenge, the administration and faculty of Carey see this spotlight position as being based on several factors. One, Carey has remained afloat and has continued to grow consistently for the past 25 years while similar colleges have been forced to close their doors. Secondly, Carey College, two years ago, completed a self-study that was unusually extensive, honest, introspective, and future-oriented. It has been used by many other schools as a model for their own self-study projects. Thirdly, the school has branched out to serve students of all ages with innovative programs on three campuses: Hattiesburg, New Orleans (School of Nursing), and Gulfport. And fourthly, the recent indepth McGrath Study of all Southern Baptist colleges showed William Carey College to be one that

fitted snugly into the wholesome mainstream of private education with a philosophy of emphasis on the individual, with a creative approach to continuing education, with financial soundness, and with a denominational closeness that spells the dramatic difference between success and failure on the private education scene today. Dr. Frederic Jacobs and Dr. Robert Hahn of Harvard's Graduate School of Education are directing the case study. They have been generous in their providing of all relevant materials of the study to members of the Carey Board of Trustees, faculty, administration and Planning Commission.

The suggestions and alternatives which will come out of the August meeting will be graciously, but critically, received by Carey College. It will remain to be seen, however, how much of the case study findings and recommendations will be incorporated into the future planning of the school.

Nevertheless, to be studied by Harvard is no mean honor and Carey College (aware that the Lord "works in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform") will gratefully accept the input of Harvard scholarship as she looks at changing educational trends, declining student pools and economic liabilities.

William Carey College officials are constantly aware that they have another source of wisdom and guidance which comes from outside and beyond even the minds of brilliant men. If "Davis College" is to survive it will have to adopt the same philosophy of the man William Carey of England in the 18th century who said, "Expect great things from God and attempt great things for God."

Who knows? Maybe the Lord will help Carey College fulfill her expectations and honor her attempts for great things through the services of Harvard University!



Clarke Goal Is Already Half Reached

Following the Faculty/Staff and Former Faculty Blueprint for Progress Campaign Dinner, Allen Parnell, director of development at Clarke College, Mrs. Rosalind Street, J. B. Costlow, director of religious activities, and Mrs. Ernestine Burns discuss the exciting news that \$11,348.24 has already been pledged toward a \$20,000 goal.

Arab Work Continues During Iran Crisis

By Susan S. Cahen
RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptists are not curtailing missionary activity in Arab countries because of the current crisis in Iran, according to a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board official just returned from the Middle East.

"I know nothing of any plan or thought of withdrawing from any Arab country at this time," said J. D.

Hughey, the board's secretary for Europe and the Middle East, just back from a tour of 15 countries within his area.

Missionaries earlier had withdrawn from Iran and for several reasons the Baptist church in Ankara, Turkey, has been put on inactive status.

If tensions were to arise, Hughey said, it would be strictly the missionaries' decision whether or not to withdraw. They have been authorized in advance to take whatever action seems desirable.

"But, I repeat, I saw no evidence of fear or panic on the part of the missionaries, just a readiness to get on with the job, prudently, but persistently," Hughey emphasized.

But, he said, during visits to Yemen, Gaza, Jordan, Israel and Egypt he saw no disturbances or display of any anti-American feelings. Many showed the same degree of Arab hospitality he had been accustomed to.

"The Muslim people seem to be more eager to express their Muslim loyalties than before," Hughey said, "but I personally don't think the upsurge of radical Islam with its extreme expressions of hostility toward westerners and other religions is likely to prevail."

"I think there are enlightened Muslims whose influence already has been felt and will eventually be felt even in the land of (the Ayatollah) Khomeini. But, because of what is happening in the Muslim world, Christians cannot expect any special privileges lest the radical elements be antagonized."

Hughey emphasized that it will probably be necessary for some time to maintain a low profile even in friendly Muslim countries.

Mass. Gov. Signs Bill For Prayer

BOSTON (EP) — Massachusetts Gov. Edward J. King has signed a public school prayer bill requiring teachers to seek a volunteer student to say a prayer each morning, and has pocket-vetoed a bill to "sexualize" language in state labor laws.

The prayer bill contains a provision allowing students to be excused if they don't want to participate. Public school teachers are required under the new law to seek a volunteer among students in the first class of each day to say a prayer.

Following the U. S. Supreme Court's 1962-63 rulings against public school prayers, and Bible readings, Massachusetts passed a law in 1966 providing for a period of meditation in state public schools. The law was amended in 1973 to allow for "meditation or prayer." A federal district court upheld the prayer law in 1973. The Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts (CLUM), which challenged the earlier state prayer laws, urged Gov. King not to sign the latest statute. "I don't think it can stand a constitutional test," said CLUM executive director John W. Roberts.

Home Shopping Service Begins Mail Order Sales

NASHVILLE — Home Shopping Service, the Sunday School Board's new mail order ministry, recently began receiving orders for delivery before Christmas. Grady C. Cothen, board president, was the first customer to place a mail order. B. Elaine Dickson, manager of the direct sales department, is leading the convenience service to offer selected Christian products to help families and persons in a personalized way.

Direct mail and advertising will be used to offer products to individuals. Emphasis will be placed on quality books and other items produced by a variety of publishers. Many Sunday School Board products, directed toward individual use rather than church use, will be available through the service.

Lists of currently available products may be obtained by writing to Home Shopping Service, Nashville, Tenn. 37234.

Josef Nagy, a teacher at the Baptist theological seminary in Budapest for more than 30 years, has been named acting president of the Council of Free Churches in Hungary. In this post he succeeds Sandor Palotay who died August 5.

Church Returns Into The Southern Baptist Fold

Amity Baptist Church at Woodland in Chickasaw Association, which eight years ago left the convention, has returned to the Southern Baptist fold.

Recently, Hollis Bryant of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Cooperative Missions department staff, was contacted by two Chickasaw pastors who had been approached by Amity members who wanted to reestablish contact with the association.

Bobby Long, pastor of Shiloh Church, Holcomb, a convention board member, and James Cannon, pastor of Parkway Church, Houston, and associational moderator, spoke with Bryant about the church's desires.

Bryant preached a Sunday morning service and met with members that

afternoon explaining the content of Southern Baptist Sunday School literature and helped draft a petition for associational membership.

Arbor Grove Church furnished some quarters to take care of the church's needs until the literature could arrive from the Sunday School Board. (It arrived in less than two weeks after the order was sent.)

The Association met in November at Okolona Baptist Church, unanimously accepting the Amity Church back into the association.

Until the church can fill its recently vacated pulpit, Bryant has been supplying the church with Southern Baptist preachers each Sunday.

UMC Must Stand Trial In Retirement Homes Case

By Stan Hasty
WASHINGTON (BP) — The Supreme Court announced it will not prevent the United Methodist Church (UMC) from being sued by former tenants of a group of bankrupt Methodist-related retirement homes.

The high court's brief order means that it will not rule on the constitutional question of whether a church body such as the UMC can be held liable in such cases until the justices hear the case on its merits.

Pacific Homes, the bankrupt corporation, was named along with the United Methodist Church in a series of suits totaling \$366 million brought by 162 former residents.

Two California courts have differed on the question of UMC liability but the higher of the two, the state court of appeal, ruled last March that because it interpreted the UMC to be a hierarchical church, the denomination could be

held liable in the damage suits. Methodist theologians and historians had argued before the court of appeal that their church's polity is connectional rather than hierarchical.

When attorneys for the UMC appealed the California court's decision to the U.S. Supreme Court, they were joined in a friend-of-the-court brief by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, which argued that making the UMC liable for the retirement homes' bankruptcy "would unconstitutionally mandate the demise of religious denominations as they now exist."

The California case has attracted wide attention in religious circles because of its potential implications for the financial liability of denominations in the operation of a variety of church agencies and institutions, many of which are controlled by relatively independent boards of trustees.

Church officials across denominational lines are worried that allowing

the former residents of Pacific Homes to name the UMC as a liable party in their case establishes a dangerous precedent which could lead to an outbreak of similar cases brought by disgruntled individuals or groups.

The Supreme Court's decision to concur with the California court in forcing the UMC to go to trial in the case does not mean, however, that the question of liability will not be dealt with when the case makes its way up the appeals ladder once more, this time on its merits.

But it does mean that church officials will have to wait at least a year or two before the troublesome question is finally decided.

Northern Plains Suit Project Awaits Support

Ken Pickens is pastor of First Baptist Church, Sturgis, South Dakota. He is a native of Tupelo and is former pastor of First Baptist Church, Vardaman. There are usually about 45 in Sunday School at Sturgis. Pickens has a mission church in Belle Fourche about 30 miles away where he holds weekly Bible study.

Pickens is one of the Northern Plains pastors slated to receive a new suit this year in the Suits Project of the Mississippi Brotherhood.

Annually Baptist Men's groups in Mississippi fund this project which should raise enough money to purchase more than 50 suits for these pioneering men. Funds are sent to Paul Harrell of the Brotherhood Department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205. Each suit is estimated to cost \$95.

Former recipients of the suits testify as to the appreciation for this project. "It proves to be a great encouragement to us here in cold North Dakota," said Dwain Steinkuehler, pastor of Faith Baptist Church, Grand Forks, N. D.

"This expression of gratitude

comes from the depths of my heart to a people who are standing with us in prayer and concern and in very visible expressions, such as you have done during Christmas," wrote Bob Graham, pastor of North Hill Baptist Church, Minot, N. D.

Ben Brown, pastor of Calvary Southern Baptist Church, Emerald, N. D., wrote, "The suit could not have come at a more opportune time. Please express my deepest gratitude to the Baptist men of Mississippi for this expression of love."

And Robert E. Ferrel, pastor of Missouri Valley Baptist Church, New Town, N. D., wrote, "The concern and generosity of the Brotherhood is indeed heartwarming. Many times things of this nature come at a very opportune time and your gift was indeed a welcomed item."

Ferrel noted he once served a Mississippi church, Zion Hill in McNeill, while a student at New Orleans Seminary.

The suits will go to new pastors in Montana and all pastors in North Dakota and Wyoming. Pastors in Montana received suits last year.

Committee members for the project are Wilbur Irwin, pastor of Jackson's Forest Hill Baptist Church; Al Whitehead, Jackson layman; Cooper Walton, Jackson layman; and Nolen Brister, chaplain at the VA hospital.

Baptism Increase Leads

(Continued from Page 1)
consider a massive strategy for enlarging the number of churches reporting WMU organizations," said Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the WMU. "There's only so much that can be done at a national level, however."

"WMU is continuing to revise strategies to enable employed women to participate effectively in missions and church activities that have traditionally relied on housewives for a large amount of volunteer work," she continued. "This statistic raises the question of whether pastors, ministers of education and congregations are willing to give time, budget, emphasis and encouragement to WMU."

The anticipated loss in enrollment for the Sunday School program of 0.1 percent represents an expected loss of 7,338, which will leave the total enrollment at more than 7.3 million. This small loss is significant because Sunday School enrollment was down by more than 92,000 last year.

"I am not pleased with a 7,338 loss in Sunday School enrollment," stated Sunday School department secretary Harry Piland, "not when there are millions in our nation not involved in any kind of Bible study. I am, however, encouraged by the fact that the loss is far less than last year."

"In any case, the direction of the Sunday School department is clear," he continued. "We shall do all in our power to lead our churches to reach out, enroll and win every possible person. We shall ask for the direction of

the Holy Spirit in this monumental and deeply significant task."

In the Church Training program, a loss of nearly 32,000, or 1.8 percent, is projected for the 1978-79 year, making the total enrollment more than 1.74 million.

"We have spent a year of intensive work in streamlining and strengthening all aspects of church training," commented Roy Edgemon, secretary of the Church Training department, "and we are now focusing on discipleship and doctrinal training as never before to help church members in Bible doctrine and assist them in Christian growth."

"Of course, I was hoping that Church Training enrollment would be up this year," Edgemon continued, "but I am confident that God is blessing the work and that there is a commitment and enthusiasm on the part of the pastors and church leaders to equip all of God's people."

Projected statistics are taken from information on the Uniform Church Letter, submitted annually by churches in the Southern Baptist Convention. Statistics for the projected figures were taken from the first 26,309 letters received by the research services department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

China is experiencing a new freedom for Christian expression. The Baptist World Alliance has received news that an all-denominational Christian service was held on September 30 in the largest Baptist church building in Canton. A congregation of 800 filled the pews, and many others stood. Pastors from six different denominations participated. "I could feel the deep emotion of the people, both old and young" the BWA's correspondent reported. "The people rejoiced when they were told that religious freedom is beginning to be practiced after thirty years of atheistic rule." There is news also that 100,000 copies of a new Chinese language edition of the Bible will be printed and distributed by a government publishing house.

Diaz Couple Named Baptist Missionaries

ATLANTA — Julio and Dorothy Diaz of Miami, Fla., were among 37 persons appointed to missions service during the November meeting of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board executive committee.

They will continue to live in Miami, where Diaz will direct an extension of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Diaz, a native of Argentina, has been

pastor of churches in Argentina, Florida and Texas. He is a graduate of Mississippi College, Clinton, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Mrs. Diaz, a native of Mississippi, also attended Mississippi College. She is a graduate of Texas Wesleyan College, Fort Worth. They have three children.

Liberia Totals 100 Years Of Baptist Work In 1980

MONROVIA, Liberia (BP) — Liberian Baptists will celebrate their centennial in 1980 with a new building, publication of the convention's history and the adoption of goals and strategies for the next century.

The Liberia Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention Inc. recently approved architectural drawing calling for a nine-story building in downtown Monrovia at an estimated cost of \$1.2 million. It will include offices for the convention and its organizations and auxiliaries, a bookstore, a film library, a publication center, con-

ference rooms and office space for lease to outside groups.

The history of Liberian Baptists is intertwined with the history of the republic. The first president of the convention was Joseph J. Cheeseman, also president of the country. The current president of Liberia, William R. Tolbert Jr., is also president of the Baptist Convention and pastor of Zion Praise Baptist Church in Bentol City.

Liberia was never the colony of a foreign power. Free black men and women from the United States came to this part of Africa under the auspices of the American Colonization Society. They intended to live on the continent which was the homeland of their ancestors. Some had been slaves and had bought or been given freedom; others were born free.

This group established the first church on Liberian soil, what is now the Providence Baptist Church in Monrovia. Lott Carey, one of their leaders, became their first pastor of that church.

Nathaniel Richardson, retired author of books and articles about Liberia and Liberian Baptist history, and Abraham James, a university professor, will prepare a history of the convention.

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Agencies Develop "Distinctly Southern Baptist" Approach

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP) — A first step toward devising cooperative strategies to help churches grow more effectively has been announced by the Sunday School and Home Mission Boards of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The agreement, which will result in increased efforts by the home mission, church program and publishing arms of the SBC, was worked out over a two-year period and represents only the two agencies.

"We are grateful that we can link the approaches and resources of these two agencies in a massive growth enterprise," said Grady C. Cothen, Sunday School Board president. "Growing churches is our Heavenly Father's business; therefore, growing churches is our business."

"What we are attempting to do is find ways in which we can work together to provide resources and programs which will help churches move strongly into a continuing and stable growth pattern," added William G. Tanner, the Home Mission Board's executive director-treasurer.

The agreement defines the growth of churches, specifies characteristics and outlines actions necessary for growth.

"About two years ago, leaders from some of the state Baptist conventions asked us to develop a distinctly Southern Baptist approach to church growth," Tanner said. "Southern Baptists have been concerned about church growth for years. Other groups have picked up some of what we have been doing and given it a different verbiage and a Third World coloration."

Tanner and Cothen appointed a committee which worked toward a common Southern Baptist approach to church growth under their leadership. Serving on the committee from the Sunday School Board were Reginald McDonough, secretary of the church administration department; Roy Edgemon, secretary of the church training department; and Harry P. Land, secretary of the Sunday School department. Home Mission Board representatives were Gerald Palmer, director of the missions section and C. B. Hogue, director of the evangelism section.

"The agreement represents a Southern Baptist understanding of what makes up church growth," Cothen said. "We realize not every church fits in the same category, but we also realize a need to develop plans to help every church grow."

"We are drawing together on an agreement of the definition, characteristics, and principles of church growth, so that we can present a unified approach. The agreement assures that each agency is saying the same thing about growing churches. As we have a common approach, we can provide the resources which will help each church grow in its own way."

Tanner said the agreement "will call for an intensive review of what we are now doing, examining our programs and strategies to see how they support growing churches, and devising plans to strengthen that growth."

The agreement — which will be published in a brochure in early 1980 — defines church growth: "Church growth is the human-divine process of adding to a church those who are saved through Jesus Christ, equipping them for responsible discipleship, resulting in witnessing, ministering and establishing new fellowships of believers."

The biblical principles underlying the effort to help churches grow "spring from a basic presupposition about the church as the Body of Christ," the agreement says.

They include: The Scripture provides principles which instruct and guide our efforts to lead a church to grow; God purposes that churches

should grow; growth results from God and man working together; a church is responsible as God's agent to fulfill his purpose in the world; and a church witnesses and ministers, recognizing social, racial and cultural distinctions and acknowledges the power of the gospel to transcend them and unite persons in Christ.

The agreement lists common characteristics of Southern Baptist churches which are experiencing growth. Included are pastoral and lay leadership involved in growth, priority commitment to evangelism, an equipping ministry designed to help members grow, minister and witness, and the use of the Sunday School as the major outreach arm of the church.

It also defines actions which must be taken if churches are to grow. Included are a commitment to growth, cultivation, establishment and evaluation of strategies aimed at growth.

Philly Must Pay For Papal Altar Costs

PHILADELPHIA (BP) — Declaring that the First Amendment to the Constitution "has consistently been interpreted in letter and in spirit as prohibiting the expenditure of public funds for a religious service," a federal judge has ruled that the archdiocese of Philadelphia must reimburse the city for expenses incurred in constructing a platform from which Pope John Paul II said mass during his recent U.S. visit.

Judge Raymond J. Broderick, himself a Roman Catholic, ordered the city to seek reimbursement of more than \$200,000.

Broderick's carefully-written, 17-page memorandum held that the city's purpose in building the platform was religious instead of secular, that the primary effect of its action was to advance religion, and that it fostered an excessive entanglement of the city with religion.

Uganda Leadership Meet Shows Work Still Alive

JINJA, Uganda (BP) — Pastors arriving in Jinja for the first meeting of Ugandan Baptist leadership in eight years didn't know whether many of their old friends were dead or alive.

But they spent much of their three days together in prayer, praise and thanksgiving after greeting many of those old friends, said Dale G. Hooper, Southern Baptist missionary to Kenya. Hooper, a native of North Carolina, attended the meeting after visiting Uganda's director of programming in Kampala to discuss Baptist broadcasting in the country.

After spending their first day in worship, fellowship, teaching and preaching, 65 men and two women from throughout Uganda heard reports from churches in areas such as Mbale, where only five of the 20 churches remain. Some churches in other areas also were destroyed, some churches

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BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 3

Students Fund Special Overseas Mission Projects

Baptist Student Unions of five Mississippi College have pledged funds totaling nearly \$1,500 for support hunger and relief programs abroad.

The program, MANNA (Ministering Aid to Needy Nations Abroad) is administered by the Foreign Mission Board and pinpoints specific projects with which student givers can directly identify.

Mississippi College BSU has pledged \$781 for vegetable gardens in Bangladesh.

Mississippi University for Women BSU has pledged \$81.43 for cottage industry assistance in Bangladesh.

Hinds Junior College BSU will give \$84.28 to a family feeding program in North Brazil.

A man has deprived himself of the best there is in the world who has deprived himself of a knowledge of the Bible. — Woodrow Wilson

The Bible is a window through which we look to heaven. — Timothy Dwight

University of Southern Mississippi BSU will give \$500 for chain saws in Uganda.

And Gulf Coast Junior College will give \$80 to buy fertilizer in Uganda.

The Foreign Mission Board said that foreign missionaries will contact the schools concerning individual projects' progress.

Volunteer Of The Year

The 1979 Language Ministries Volunteer of the Year award was presented to Mrs. Wini Harris at the annual meeting of the Jackson County Association.

Mrs. Harris is director of Project H.O.P.E., the Conversational English program meeting at the First Church, Pascagoula. For several years she has given of her time and energy to help international persons learn to speak English and to learn of God's love.

Mrs. Harris is a member of the Woodhaven Church, C. I. Miller, pastor.

Lottie Moon Goals Reached In One Day

West Laurel

West Laurel Church, Jones County, accepted a challenge from its pastor, Wayne DuBose, in connection with this year's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, to meet a \$3,500 goal the first Sunday in December.

Pastor DuBose told his congregation that it had always been his dream to pastor a church that would reach a challenging Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Goal on the first Sunday in December. DuBose encouraged his people throughout November, to give sacrificially to Christ first this Christmas. He pleaded for his members not to delay giving and thus face the temptation to give to Christ out of what would be left over from their Christmas spending. So the church members were asked to bring their gifts to foreign missions on the first Sunday in December and not drag this important matter throughout December and part of January.

Working with the pastor, the WMU had set the church's Lottie Moon Goal at \$3,500 (seven hundred dollars above last year's goal).

On Dec. 2, a manger was placed at the front of the church. During the morning worship service, the members came forward placing their gifts in the manger. "It was so beautiful to see the people give first to Christ with a great giving spirit," said the pastor. "It was moving to see little children drop containers full of loose change in the manger."

After the money was counted, it was reported to the church that they had given almost \$5,400 to foreign missions. The church had exceeded its goal by nearly \$2,000 dollars on the first Sunday in December. "It was a great demonstration of bold giving to bold missions," said the pastor.

First, Winona

First Church, Winona, David Pratt, pastor, went "all the way in one day" with its Lottie Moon Offering. The church had set a goal of \$7,000 and the offering received Dec. 9 was \$10,370.26.

Much Background Work Precedes New Ministry

By Foy Rogers, Director

Cooperative Missions Department

Five years ago the staff of the Cooperative Missions Department sensed the desire on the part of many pastors to have some seminars leading to the Doctor of Ministry degree conducted in Jackson.

We worked with our executive secretary-treasurer and the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary administration, and seminars have been and continue to be conducted in the Baptist Building in Jackson for those who desire to work toward a Doctor of Ministry degree.

About two years ago we began hearing discussion regarding needs for training for God-called people who wanted to be involved in some special on-the-job training conducted by a seminary. Again we turned to the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary through Fred Moseley, director of the School of Christian Training, for help.

This study is not to take the place of college or Seminary training and offers no credit toward a degree but offers on the job training toward a Christian training diploma.

Moseley, Hollis Bryant, and I met in Tupelo with directors of missions from six surrounding associations along with James Travis of Blue Mountain college and Harry Martin of Tupelo. The Christian Training diploma program will become a reality in January 1, 1980.

The seminary will promote the off-campus center, take care of all book work and work closely with the adjoining associations and the Cooperative

Missions Department in conducting the classes.

Robert Hamblin of Tupelo and Gene Henderson of Columbus will teach the courses at the University Center in Tupelo.

We urge any person within driving distance who has answered God's call and is not planning to attend college or seminary, to consider this opportunity for training. This is not a new emphasis for the seminary, but it merely makes training more convenient.

Cooperative Program Sees Big Increase

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — November gifts to the national Southern Baptist Cooperative Program increased a dramatic 27.37 percent over the same month last year, to \$5,981,606.

Designated gifts, boosted by contributions to world hunger, increased 58.6 percent over November 1978, to \$730,700.

The increase in undesignated contributions is the largest since April 1976 when gifts of \$4,270,687 were 29.64 percent ahead of April 1975.

Ada Ruth Kelly, bookkeeper for the Executive Committee, which distributes the receipts to the 19 boards and agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention, said the large November increase can be attributed heavily to the end-of-year overage given by the

Alabama Baptist State Convention. Alabama Baptists increased their Cooperative Program contributions 85.1 percent over the previous November, to \$718,380.

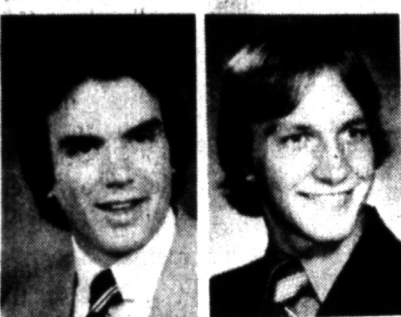
The designated and undesignated receipts brings November's total to \$6,712,306, an increase of 30.16 percent over 1978.

After a meager 3.25 percent increase in October, the first month of the fiscal year, November's increases bring Cooperative Program giving to \$10,953,897, up 15.16 percent over the first two months of 1978. Total gifts, including designated and undesignated contributions, were up 16.67 percent, to \$12,441,526.

The 1979-80 goal is \$83 million, which includes a \$12 million Bold Mission Thrust challenge fund.

Staff Changes

Mrs. Jim Gregg is the new church secretary at Gulf Gardens, Gulf Coast.



Turner Adams

Pocahontas Baptist Church (Hinds-Madison Assn.) has called Randy Turner as pastor and Matt Adams as minister of music. Turner, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Red Turner of Senatobia, is a graduate of Mississippi College. He is a third year Master of Divinity student at New Orleans Seminary. He has served Mississippi College as associate director of religious activities and as minister of youth, Ridgecrest Church, Jackson. He will begin this pastorate on December 16.

Adams is the son of Rev. and Mrs. Charles W. Adams of Dover, Del. His father is pastor in Dover, of First Southern Baptist Church. Matt, a junior at Mississippi College, is majoring in church music. He began his duties at Pocahontas on Nov. 11. He last served as minister of music and youth at Gallman Church.

Grace Memorial Church, Gulfport, has called Bobby Shurden as minister of music and youth. He and his wife Peggy and two children, Rebecca and David, have moved to the field. The church's Young Adult Choir recently presented "Peace in the Midst of the Storm."

Immanuel Church of Vicksburg has extended a call to Riley Harper as minister of music and youth. Harper, a native of Vicksburg, goes to Immanuel from Woodlawn Church, Vicksburg. He is married to the former Donna Erwin and they have one child.

Howard Taylor is the new pastor of the Arlington Heights Church in Pascagoula. He was serving in his eighth year as pastor of Calvary Church, Greenville, before going to Arlington. Taylor has served as pastor of churches in Mississippi and New York for 27 years. He has been active in community and denominational life. He presently is on the Stewardship Commission of the S.B.C. His wife is the former Sarah Holcombe of Georgia. The Taylors have two children, Melanie and David.

Three Types Of Diplomas Available

160 Church Study Course Diplomas Awarded In Mississippi This Year

By Anne McWilliams

Church Study Course awards reversed a 19-year decline this year with a gain of more than 4,000, according to a news release from the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

The total number of awards earned last year in the SBC was 304,407. The total number of diplomas earned last year was 2,697, a 32 percent gain over the previous year.

"In Mississippi, from January through October this year, 160 diplomas were awarded," reports Mose Dangerfield, consultant, state Sunday School department.

Three types of diplomas are available — the leadership diploma, the subject area diploma, and the Christian development diploma. An individual is required to study six books in one area to get a leadership or subject area diploma.

The Church Study Course now offers 350 courses in 23 subject areas.

A study course program has been in effect since 1902, for Southern Baptists to systematically study different areas of interest.

The Church Study Course catalog has been redesigned and several new diplomas have been added. Church Study Course Catalog, 1979-80 is the basic guide for using the Church Study Course, and contains the answer to most any question a person or church would want to ask about requirements for awards and diplomas.

Leadership diplomas are for church leaders and potential church leaders.

They include Sunday School Leadership Diploma (in six areas); Church Training Leadership Diploma (five areas); Church Music Diploma (seven areas); Deacon Ministry Diploma; Media Services Diploma (two areas); Woman's Missionary Union Leadership Diploma (five areas); Brotherhood Leadership Diploma (five areas); Church Recreation Leadership Diploma; and Associational Leadership Diploma. A Sunday School Leadership Diploma in Special Ministries for workers with the mentally retarded has been added. The Spanish Church Study Course has 22 new courses and a new diploma in Spanish.

Subject area diplomas are designed for all Christians who desire a more in-depth understanding of the Bible and Baptist doctrine. They include the Bible Survey Diploma, the Baptist Doctrine Diploma, the Bible Survey Diploma for Youth, and the Baptist Doctrine Diploma for Youth.

A new series of undated Christian Development Diplomas is designed to measure the total number of courses a person has completed in the Church Study Course since January 1, 1970.

Each of the five Christian Development Diplomas with its accompanying three seals represents 20 study courses, so all five of these diplomas can add up to 100 courses. The five are the Christian Development Diploma, the Advanced Christian Development Diploma, the Master Christian Development Diploma, the Distinguished Christian Development Diploma, and

the Special Citation Diploma. Youths may start on this series of diplomas and continue to accumulate courses into their adult years.

Credit for study books may be earned through class study, the lesson course study plan, or through individual study. Many churches encourage their members to do home study, particularly in the summer, when they have more leisure time for extra reading.

How to Train All the Leaders Your Church Needs by J. Chester Vaughn and Charles R. Livingstone shows how to use the Church Study Course to train church leaders and how to set up an ongoing leader training program using Church Study Course materials and records. This book was published by Convention Press and is available at the Baptist Book Store. Vaughn is program director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Livingstone is assistant-to-the-director, Church Services and Materials Division, Sunday School Board.

The Church Study Course Catalog, 1979-80 and a pamphlet, Using the Sunday School Leadership Diploma to Train Workers, are both available from the Sunday School department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The top course in the Church Study Course program for the past year was Mark: The Savior for Sinners, the 1979 January Bible Study book. More than 100,000 awards were presented for the study of Mark.

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The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Editorials

Another debt . . .

Gratitude due State Tax Commission

Again the residents of Mississippi owe a debt of gratitude to the members of the Mississippi State Tax Commission. Following a hearing recently the commission again denied an attempt to designate a part of downtown Jackson as a resort area.

The owner of a recently closed discotheque had been trying to get the resort status in order to sell liquor-by-the-drink past midnight, which is the state-wide closing time. He knew of this time limit when he put in his establishment; but he pushed for resort status, claiming his business was

being adversely affected.

First the city turned down his petition to sell liquor-by-the-drink until 2 a. m. through the resort area status. This opened the door for petition before the State Tax Commission, and the request was denied twice. After the first denial he was afforded an opportunity to challenge the decision. He did and was again denied in a public hearing.

David Grant, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church in Jackson, was spokesman for a group of Baptists who were present at the open hearing to stand in opposition to the resort area

status.

The disco owner pointed out that a cafe near Tupelo has resort status and can serve liquor around the clock. The commission acknowledged that mistakes had been made in the past. The group rightly concluded, however, that such a mistake was not just cause for making other mistakes. The commission cannot by law revoke a resort status once it is granted.

So the commission acted wisely, and its wisdom is greatly appreciated.

No one wants to see a young man fail

in business. It is regretted that this young man chose a business that he felt had to be built on such a flimsy foundation as serving liquor. Jackson police chief Ray Pope pointed out before the commission what problems naturally arise from the continued service of liquor in any area. It demands an increased police force and makes the users of alcohol the easy targets of muggers, rapists, and prostitutes, he said.

The commission's decision will prove to be a benefit to all of Mississippi.

Another goodbye . . .

Clarence Cutrell nears retirement

From time to time the time comes to say goodbye to cherished friends in the Baptist Building. While we say goodbye in a sort of formal way, we hope they will come around often to stay in touch.

Clarence Cutrell, consultant in the Department of Stewardship and Cooperative Program Promotion, will be retiring on Dec. 31.

It will be a distinct loss. Clarence is one of those quiet folks who finds his way into your heart without half trying. It's not that he doesn't want to be a friend. It's just that he can be such a good friend without having to put out much effort in doing so. It just seems to come naturally.

Clarence is quiet and moves at a measured pace, but he keeps moving. During the past year, it is recorded, he has helped churches in Mississippi raise more than \$3 million dollars as they have entered into building programs. This means that those churches have saved some \$3 million dollars in interest payments. Clarence's efforts haven't cost the churches anything.

His ministry has spanned 42 years, and the last 12 years of it have been at the Baptist Building. If anyone thinks that the Baptist Building is staffed by a bunch of fat cat denominational big wigs, Clarence stands as a prime example of the fact that it isn't so. The

man is loved all over this state. Follow his tracks and see what people think of him. Go to Eupora, for example, and see what they have to say there about Clarence Cutrell. He was pastor there for several years.

Well, the above statements were not made in the spirit of dare. There is no question about what the people will say. The writer has already been there and heard them. They love him in Eupora.

And we love him at the Baptist Building. We don't see much of him. He is always out doing the state helping churches. But we saw enough to know what kind of person he is. We will miss him.

Clarence is a very able speaker, and as a singer he can hold his own in any crowd. His musical talents have been passed on to the two children: Jimmy, minister of music at First Church, Gulfport, and Jan, organist at Broadmoor, Jackson.

As is always the case, the Lord fills the vacancies left by quality people with other quality people. Joel Haire, pastor at First Church, West Point, will move into the Stewardship office to fill the vacancy created by the departure of Clarence. While we bid Clarence goodbye with profound regret, we welcome Joel with warm enthusiasm. — DTM

Part One Of Two Parts . . .

The Birth Of Jesus In Its Historical Setting

By J. B. Fowler, Jr.

For centuries the history of the world had been dominated by the area known as "The Fertile Crescent." This included such people as the Babylonians, the Assyrians, the Persians, and the Hebrews. In the fourth century before Christ, however, the political center of the world shifted from "The Fertile Crescent" to the Western Mediterranean. In 491 B. C. the Greeks defeated the Persians at Marathon. In the middle of the fourth century B. C. there was born to King Philip of Macedonia, a son whom he named Alexander. His mother was Olympias, who was also known as the "Witch-Woman." She was a domineering woman who fired her son with the ambition to conquer the world. Since King Philip wanted the best for his young son, he chose Aristotle to be his teacher. The boy was brilliant and learned quickly but he disagreed with Aristotle's democratic views and stoutly maintained that the highest form of government could only be achieved through a dictatorship. Alexander was started on his march toward the achieving of this goal when his father took advantage of the quarrels among the Greek cities, to conquer Athens.

King Philip treated the Athenians well. He made no unusual demands upon them, but sent his son, Alexander, to placate them. Philip felt that he could get the most out of Athens by capitalizing on their old hatred for the Persians. Before he could carry out his plan of leading his army against the Persians, however, he was assassinated and Alexander became king of Macedonia. He also became the heir to his father's policy of stamping out Persia.

He moved overland and entered Asia Minor and began a military conquest that has no parallel in history. As he marched westward with his Greek and Macedonian army, Syria, Palestine, Egypt, and all the East fell at his feet. He conquered Babylon without striking a blow and became the Lord of all Asia. He seated himself on the ancient Persian throne that had belonged to the family called Darius.

But Alexander wasn't satisfied. He

continued to march East and his army encountered such terrible hardships that the soldiers rebelled. They had been on the march for years and wanted to go home. Alexander was in no mood for insubordination. He had many of his officers and men put to death and his temper grew worse as his drinking increased. Half-hearted and malcontent, his generals followed him into Asia but they would go no further. Retracing his path into Persia, he marched into Babylon. There he caught a fever and in five days was dead. He was thirty-three, and the date was June 13, 323 B. C.

After Alexander died his kingdom was divided into three kingdoms. One of these kingdoms extended into Egypt with its capital at Alexandria. Egypt was ruled by the Ptolemies. This was a dynasty whose last representative was Cleopatra.

By 250 B. C. the Greek influence and language had spread through the Eastern World that tens of thousands of Jews could no longer read Hebrew. Their sacred Scriptures written in the Hebrew language, was lost to them. Thus, down in Egypt the Jews began to translate the Hebrew Scriptures into Greek. The translation of the Bible into the Greek tongue, by the Jews, was an incredible step. It gave to the whole Mediterranean world a Bible called the Septuagint. One which all the Greek-speaking world could read. It was this Bible from which the Lord Jesus, himself, read during his ministry. It was translated by seventy Jewish scholars, working on the island of Pharos off the coast of Alexandria, Northern Egypt. Alexander the Great was dead, and his kingdom was divided and dying, but this pagan had left a legacy to the world that would do more to spread the gospel than any other single event. He had given the civilized world a common language in which the Gospel could be preached after the birth of Jesus.

We pass by the reign of the Seleucids over Israel and come now to the year 63 B. C. Pompey, the Roman general, marched through Palestine, laid siege to Jerusalem for three months, and

Judah became a Roman province. Rome's rise to power in Palestine had come about as Pompey the Great was given the task of clearing the Mediterranean Sea of pirates. He didn't stop at that, but went on to conquer Asia Minor, Syria, and Palestine. But the Roman Senate back home refused to approve his acts in Asia and his promises of land to his troops. So, Pompey the Great, Julius Caesar, and Marcus Crassus formed what is called "The First Triumvirate" in 60 B. C. Later Pompey and Julius Caesar split over Caesar's increasing power, and he was assassinated in Egypt in 48 B. C. After the murder of Pompey the Great in Egypt, Julius Caesar began to settle the affairs of the fabulously rich kingdom of Egypt and met the serpent of the Nile — a beautiful woman named Cleopatra. She captured his heart.

"The middle-aged Roman general dallied with the girl Queen for a whole year in Alexandria, while a riot of insurrection broke out against him in the city, and the Romans had a hard time defending their quarters against attack." Cleopatra's royal brother died in the fighting and through the help of Julius Caesar, Cleopatra became the sole ruler of Egypt.

But Caesar's days were numbered. He romanced Cleopatra at Alexandria and then had to move against his remaining enemies. He defeated the last one in Spain and that was the end of armed opposition. Caesar was left the master of the Roman world, but he was to live for only six months more. Calpurnia, his second wife, had dreamed that he would die so she begged him to stay home when he planned to go to the Senate House. He would not listen, and when he went to the Senate House he was stabbed to death by Brutus, Cassius, and some others. He left beneath a statue of his old adversary Pompey the Great, and died. It was the Ides of March, 44 B. C. In less than thirty-nine years, Jesus would be born across the sea.

Cleopatra, the mistress of Julius Caesar, Mark Antony, and others, was only seventeen when she and her younger brother inherited the throne of Egypt from their father. They were

to be married, as was the custom in Egypt, but Cleopatra had plans of her own. She was young and beautiful and aspired to rule alone. This was when she met Julius Caesar and the effect of her youth and beauty on the married, aging conqueror was magical. When it was necessary for him to go to Rome, he sent for Cleopatra and they renewed their love affair. He had her statue placed in the temple of Venus and made Caesarion, the son she had borne him, his legal heir.

When Caesar died, a civil war broke out in the Roman world and the kingdom was divided. Mark Antony took the East, including Egypt, while Octavian took Rome and the West.

By this time Cleopatra had returned to Egypt and had poisoned her young brother who was also her husband. She then reigned as the sole sovereign of the land of the Pharaohs. But she was a clever woman, and could see the problems that Mark Antony could pose for her as he ruled the Roman Empire in the East. So, true to her inventive, deceptive nature, she laid her plans and the resulting love story of Mark Antony and Cleopatra, which lasted for the next fourteen years, has inspired artists and writers for twenty centuries since.

Cleopatra's spell over Antony was a thing that he was never able to break. For her he quit his young wife, Octavia, the sister of his partner in the Empire, Octavian. In doing this he made a mortal enemy of Octavian. To satisfy Cleopatra, Mark Antony proclaimed Caesarion, Cleopatra's son by Julius Caesar, King of Egypt and Cyprus. He was to reign jointly with Cleopatra. Then he began to distribute the rest of his kingdom to his and Cleopatra's children.

This led to Mark Antony's downfall. Octavian would not sit idly by and see the Roman Empire divided into small bits and pieces. He denounced Antony and Cleopatra and swore that he would bring the Egyptian Queen to Rome in chains.

(Continued next week)

J. B. Fowler Jr. is pastor of First Baptist Church, McComb.



Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

The Light Of The World

Goodge Street Station must be one of the oldest stops in London's subway network, for it has no modern escalators. From Tottenham Court Road my friend Joan and I entered the station, on our way to the Thames Embankment. We walked into a decrepit elevator, or lift, as the English say. A recorded voice commanded in tones definitely British: "Stand clear of the gates!" Then the folding doors glided into place, and we descended deep into the earth. When we were settled into the tube car, packed with people "of every race and nation," and the train picked up speed through the underground corridor, suddenly the lights went out.

Conversations stopped. I heard a whisper, "Hang onto your purse." Then all was silent, except for the clackety-clack of the wheels. That was the blackest dark I've ever experienced. Not a single thread of light anywhere.

I thought, "This is how dark the world would be if Jesus had not come." He is the Light of the World.

Much of Christmas celebration is connected with lights. The other night Rosa Hooper and W. D. and I sat listening to the outdoor Singing Christmas Tree at Belhaven College. The lights on the tree kept changing from blue to green to red to white, and back again. As the choir sang, "O Holy Night," I looked up at a clear cold sky lighted with stars, and remembered the special star that guided the Wise Men.

At Christmas we see lights on trees and strung across city streets, and sing carols by the glow of candlelight. We send cards decorated with pictures of firelight, lamplight, moonlight, and candlelight.

In the early 1950s, during the Korean War, I was a student at Southwestern Seminary, in Fort Worth, Texas. One Christmastime I decided to visit a friend in West Virginia before going home to Alabama. Paul Stanley, a student preacher who lived in Virginia, offered a ride. Also with us was a woman with a baby. Her husband could not make the trip, but she was going to see her parents in Virginia.

That trip stands out in my mind because it was a white Christmas. By the time we got to Virginia it was snowing giant flakes. When we had gotten into the mountains late at night, we saw a little church in the valley far below us, light shining from the windows across the snow.

At the edge of a small town, a young soldier stood forlornly by the road, his luggage beside him. Then we were not terrified of hitchhikers, I guess, or perhaps Paul felt compassion for anyone out in the cold night, or maybe he heard an inward voice telling him to stop.

I don't recall the soldier's name, or the town where he got out, but I remember that we talked of the tragedies of war. The young man's unhappiness showed in all he said. But I remember that we stopped somewhere, alongside the highway. Paul pointed out to him that there is Hope and Light in a world that looks totally dark and full of despair.

We sat surrounded by bright moonlight on newfallen snow; it seemed that the glory of the Lord shone around us as it did that night about the angels who brought good tidings to the shepherds, as Paul prayed and then the soldier yielded his life to Him who is the Light of the World.

Book Reviews

THE JERUSALEM BIBLE: Doubleday & Co., Inc., 245 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10017; \$35.

This is a compact reader's edition of the Jerusalem Bible edited by Alexander Jones. The Bible measures 4 1/2 by 7 1/2 inches, and it is bound in black sheepskin. There are 1712 pages. Its edges are gilt and it comes packaged in a blue and gold gift box. The text, the abridged notes, and the introductions have been reduced 20 per cent in size from the previously published reader's edition. There are introductions to books or groups of books that give brief explanations of the character of the books, their dates, and their authorship. Jones says, "... the brief introductions and the notes are here only to help the ordinary reader to understand what he is reading and do not assume in him any wide literary, historical, or theological knowledge or interests." The deuterocanonical books of Tobit, Judith, the two books of the Maccabees, the Book of Wisdom, Ecclesiasticus, and Baruch have been added, though not all in one place as one usually finds the Apocrypha. They are added in the sections of history, wisdom, and prophecy. Also, additional passages have been added to Esther and Daniel. This is to be expected, for the Jerusalem Bible was originally a Catholic translation in

French. It has been translated into German, English, Spanish, and Italian.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC—

A four-record set is "The Messiah" by George Frederick Handel. It is performed by the London Philharmonic Orchestra and the London Philharmonic Choir under the direction of John Alldis. It was recorded at All Saints Church in Tooting, London, England, Aug. 8 to 17 of this year. It is released by Sparrow Records of 8587 Canoga Ave., Canoga Park, Calif. 91304. It is performed in three parts. Part I has the scriptural prophecies and the account of the birth of Christ. Part II is the rejection, death, and resurrection. Part III is the reign of Christ. It is beautifully done and makes excellent Christmas music.

Other Christmas music is found in these albums: Truth, "Now ... This is Christmas!" Paragon Records, distributed by Word Records, Waco, Texas; "Come On, Ring those Bells," Evie, Word Records; "This Is Why I Sing," Word Records; and "Unto Us a Child Is Born," by the Oklahoma Baptist Festival Choir featuring The Singing Churchmen conducted by James D. Woodward. Arrangements are by Ron Huff. Paragon Records. Distributed by Word Records.

Letters To The Editor

Appreciation

Editor:

Just a brief note to thank you for printing this journal. We enjoy it very much. Keep the good work up!

Ben Fleming
Hattiesburg

Thank you, from the heart of all of us.—Editor

The Salt II Treaty

Editor:

I read with interest the article in your last issue headed, "If We Refuse To Sign Salt II," giving reasons for signing the treaty.

From what I had read, the treaty

locks us into an inferior position to the Russians.

The October 1979 issue of the Readers Digest contains an article by Melvin R. Laird, former Secretary of Defense, in which the treaty is discussed.

One sentence reads: "The much touted Salt II 'process' of 'delicate' and 'intricate' negotiations has in fact proved to be a series of American retreats before a vigorous and determined Soviet government."

Our top military man at the negotiations, Lt. Gen. Edward L. Romney, is retiring, saying that he can't support the treaty as written because he does not consider it equitable or even ver-

ifiable.

Among the reasons against the treaty he lists the fact that the Soviet Backfire Bomber, though able to fly to the United States, is not counted under the treaty as a strategic weapon.

Many other experts have testified against the treaty.

Alice E. Davis
Mendenhall

Editor:

In response to your editorial, "If We Refuse To Sign Salt II," which gives the pro-side or appeasement policy, which President Carter is using toward Russia, will you, please, read this article and print some of the marked passages?

Of course, the present Armed Forces Chiefs of Staff agree with President Carter, as they would like to continue in their present positions until they can retire on a maximum retirement income.

I, along with many other people, who read both sides of an issue, feel that Mississippi Baptists should be given an opportunity to know both sides of every issue you endorse.

I am very strongly opposed to our signing the Salt II Treaty, which has allowed us to become inferior to the Russians in military strength and has brought about lack of confidence in us by other countries.

Mississippi Baptist pastors should

not allow themselves to be political pawns of weak political leaders. I deplore the fact.

I read and enjoy most of the time agree with your policies.

Thank you very much.

Mrs. J. C. Morris
Meridian

The piece in question was not an editorial but was instead the reporting of an interview with the three of the six pastors who attended the White House briefing on the Salt II treaty. It gives the pro-side because each of these three were very much of that persuasion. The indications were that the other three supported them. They were not available to attend the inter-

view. The Baptist Record has taken no stand on the treaty because the editor has had no first-hand involvement in information. These six men were personally involved, and they had opinions which they wanted to share with other Mississippi Baptists.

The article in question is "Pouring Salt Into the Gasoline Tank of the Free World" by Phyllis Schlafly, national chairman of the National Defense Committee of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. We would not, because of our method of operation, quote isolated passages if we could; but we cannot, because of copyrights.—Editor.

Newly Free Ugandan Baptists Eager For Preaching, Study

By Mary Jane Welch

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Southern Baptist volunteer Charles A. Tope preached this summer in Ugandan churches that hadn't been visited by a missionary in three years.

That, he says, is one reason missionaries in Uganda needed the \$58,000 from last year's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering they requested for vehicles. Baptist churches who survived the harsh years of former President Idi Amin's rule need the encouragement of missionaries as they rebuild.

"All over Uganda I saw them eager to come back. There was a real hunger for the word," said Tope, a former Southern Baptist missionary to Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania, who is now pastor of Northwest Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and a member of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

To strengthen these churches, banned in 1977 by Amin, Tope says the missionaries must have vehicles to travel to them. Many are in remote locations. But they need more than transportation.

Uganda missionaries, Mr. and Mrs. G. Webster Carroll and Mr. and Mrs. James L. Rice, are asking for roughly one quarter of their 1980 operating budget to come from the upcoming 1979 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

In the coming year, they need from Lottie Moon \$12,000 for missionary



travel to support the reviving churches; \$5,000 for general evangelism; \$4,000 for publications and literature and \$14,000 housing expenses for five missionary residences in Uganda.

"The most surprising thing most of us saw was how many of our pastors have remained faithful, although their buildings were torn down and they were threatened and persecuted," said Tope. Providing Bible school training to return these men to the ministry is a foremost objective, just as it was before the ban.

Designed to meet the needs of local pastors with little education, the schools are located in five different towns. To operate them, missionaries must have adequate literature and transportation.

Southern Baptist missionaries in Uganda do have some vehicles, but

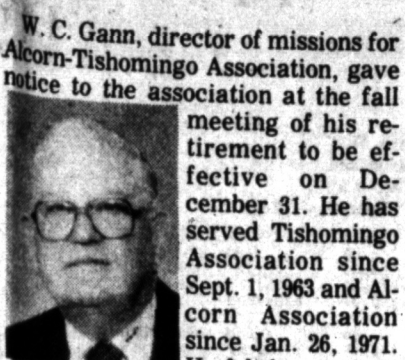
those left in the country during the last weeks of Amin's rule disappeared with his fleeing army. This summer, missionaries purchased a five-ton truck and three vans with Southern Baptist relief ministries funds. A volunteer team of East African MKs (missionary children) used them to distribute medicine, food and agricultural supplies in the impoverished country.

In September the Foreign Mission Board appropriated an additional \$18,000 from general funds, the value of the three vehicles stolen by the army, for replacement. "But that sum won't cover purchase of three new replacements at today's prices," says Davis L. Saunders, secretary for Eastern and Southern Africa.

Tope, who transferred from Uganda to Kenya in 1972, said no vehicles are available in Uganda, so the mission must purchase them in Kenya. "The Land-Rovers we used to pay \$6,000 to \$7,000 for cost over \$25,000 in Kenya now," he said.

Buoyed by the new government's interest in restoring spiritual health and by the people's eagerness for worship, the Carrolls and Rices have requested new personnel to reinforce them. In October Mr. and Mrs. Carroll H. Camp are expected to be appointed for general evangelism work. In January, Mr. and Mrs. Billy L. Oliver, an agriculturalist and his wife recently transferred from Yemen, will arrive in Uganda.

W. C. Gann Will Retire Dec. 31



W. C. Gann, director of missions for Alcorn-Tishomingo Association, gave notice to the association at the fall meeting of his retirement to be effective on December 31. He has served Tishomingo Association since Sept. 1, 1963 and Alcorn Association since Jan. 26, 1971. He felt he must retire because of

health reasons after suffering a stroke in November of 1978, although he is improving daily from the stroke. He will be available for pulpit supply, interim pastorate, revivals, week end stewardship conferences, Win schools, C. T. and S. S. conferences, deacon training, January Bible Study, and any other things that would be helpful to the church.

The association has called Guy Culver, director of missions in Union County, to succeed Gann. He will take up the work the first of the new year, 1980.

Tishomingo-Alcorn Calls Guy Culver

Guy Culver has resigned as director of missions for Union County Association and has accepted the position as director of missions for Alcorn-Tishomingo Association, effective Jan. 1, 1980. Culver will succeed W. C. Gann, who is retiring from the Alcorn-Tishomingo post.

Culver, who was born at Marietta, Miss., formerly held pastorates at Tishomingo Chapel (Alcorn); Abbeville (Lafayette); and Northside New Albany. He served in the Navy four years.

He is a graduate of Blue Mountain College. He and his wife, the former Dorothy Jean Sheffield, have two children.

1st, Gulfport Senior Adults Tour State

Eight members of Senior Adult "Singspiration Choir" of First Church, Gulfport, toured Baptist missions in the State Nov. 13-16.

The mini-bus was driven by minister of music, Jimmy Cutrell. Places visited were William Carey College and Baptist Student Union Building, U.S.M., Hattiesburg; the new Baptist Hospital, Children's Village and Baptist Building in Jackson; Central Hills R. A. Retreat, Kosciusko; Indian Center, Philadelphia; Clarke College, Newton; Camp Garaywa and Mississippi College, Clinton.

On Wednesday night they attended the Mississippi Baptist Convention where Jimmy Cutrell performed with the Singing Churchmen Handbells and Choir. Mrs. Leola Head stated, "This tour was very informative, as a host or hostess met us at each place we visited and showed us the grounds and buildings. We want to express our thanks to them."

Thursday, December 13, 1979

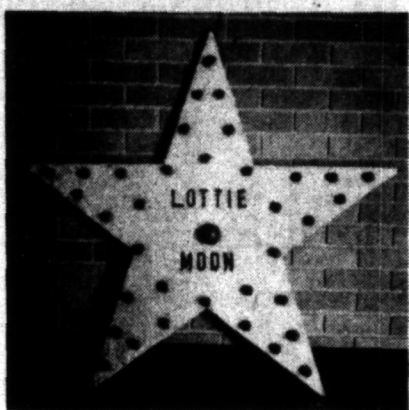
BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

The Star Is Shining Again

The Lottie Moon Star is shining again at Clarke College. For those who have experienced a Clarke College Lottie Moon Christmas the star symbolizes a season of love, sacrificial giving, and learning about the real spirit of Christmas.

A huge star is decorated with 35 small colored bulbs, each representing \$50. The large center bulb represents \$229.80. As the money comes in, bulbs are lit, and sometimes between 10:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. on December 13 students, faculty and friends will gather in front of the women's residence hall to witness the lighting of the large center bulb. When all bulbs are shining it will signify that the goal of \$1979.80 has been attained.

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering



emphasis is sponsored by the Clarke College BYW. Mary Meeks is BYW President and Mrs. Evelyn C. Williams, Director of Financial Aid, is advisor.

Broadmoor Choir Will Present "Candlelight Christmas" Dec. 16

The Church Choir of Broadmoor Church will present a program of Christmas music, entitled "Candlelight Christmas" on Sunday evening, Dec. 16, at 7 p.m. in the Church Sanctuary.

This program, under the direction of J. M. Wood, minister of music at Broadmoor, will feature many of the older Christmas carols plus several new selections relating to the birth of the Lord Jesus. Special narration has been written and will be done by Don Reeves.

The program will be done in a setting

of hundreds of candles, beginning with a festive procession, accompanied by the Ladies Handbell Choir.

Soloists include Ollie Faye Jones, Lil Lee, Dot Smith, Deanie Ferrell, Kerry Grantham, Gary Richardson and James Tadlock. Instrumentalists are Jan King, Nan Grantham, Alix Pritchard, Danny Blurton, Bill Faulkner, Gary Richardson, Betty Rosenbaum, Tom Lowe Jr., Adrian Walker, Ed Dedeaux and Lil Lee.

The public is invited. David Grant is pastor.

Autrys Write Another Book



E. A. and Lola Autry

Mississippi authors, Ewart A. and Lola M. Autry have a new book, DON'T LOOK BACK, MAMA, just off the press. For Autry, a Baptist minister, this is his fourth book. He also has had articles and short stories published in national magazines including Reader's Digest, Better Homes & Gardens, Parents Magazine, Christian Herald, Guideposts, Home Life and Progressive Farmer. His wife, Lola, is author or co-author of three books, plus magazine articles and photographs in many major magazines.

The Autrys have lived at Hickory Flat, Miss., for many years. He returned from a 13 year pastorate in Memphis to his first love — rural churches. He has, since his return, pastored in Benton, Union, Marshall, and Lafayette Counties. He was a long time moderator of Benton Association and served on the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board for six years. In 1965 he was selected as Mississippi Rural Minister of the Year by Progressive Farmer.

DON'T LOOK BACK, MAMA concerns itself with the life of a country preacher and his family from depression days to the present and gives insight into the spiritual and economic growth of the period, along with highlights of happiness, sorrow, humor and

pathos. The book can be bought from Baptist Book Stores in Memphis or directly from the authors. Their address is Whipoorwill Valley, Hickory Flat, Ms. 38633. The cost is \$8.95.

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Baptists Pledge Support For 25,000 Cambodians

By Anita Bowden

BANGKOK, Thailand (BP) — In the face of a continuing refugee flow from Cambodia, the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries in Thailand has accepted responsibility for 25,000 refugees in two holding camps for the next six months.

Baptists will deliver and distribute food supplied by international relief agencies and foreign governments to a maximum of 25,000 people in the Kam Put and Mai Root camps.

Kam Put, located near Chanthaburi in the southeast corner of Thailand, is already established and shelters now about 8,000 Cambodians, according to John R. Cheyne of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, who recently returned from a visit to the camps.

Mai Root, which will be established further down the thin strip of Thailand between the Gulf of Siam and Cambodia, is expected to hold 20,000 Cambodians.

Besides delivering and distributing food, Baptists will take responsibility for a supplementary diet consisting of milk and/or "Vita-Soy," fish meal, beans and/or other vegetables. "Vita-Soy" is a high-protein, milk-like product without lactogen, a substance which malnourished people find difficult to digest.

Missionaries estimate the cost of supplying supplementary foods, plus delivery and distribution of basic foods, will total about 10 cents per person per day. That money will come from the \$500,000 appropriated in November by the Foreign Mission Board.

Cheyne said about 10,000 Cambodians per day are entering Thailand and that between 250,000 and 300,000 are expected soon in the Kam Put area. Julius Richmond, U. S. surgeon general, reports a "striking absence of children ages one to four, the toddlers," in the camps. Other reports indicate the mortality rate of this age group is 24 times higher than normal.

San Francisco (BP) — The California Supreme Court has ruled 4-3 that the state may force Worldwide Church of God head Herbert W. Armstrong to submit to questioning over the financial dealings of the church.

Miley Speaks At

Lamar M Night

The Lamar County Association "M" Night was held on Nov. 26 at Calvary Church. A record attendance of 163, represented 10 of the 16 churches. Ten pastors and seven Church Training directors were present.

Three of the 10 participating churches reported an increase in their Church Training Program. The churches showing an increase are Corinth Church, Good Hope Church, and Oloh Church.

Richard Miley brought a message on the theme, "Equipping for Mission."

One pastor who has been in the association 11 years said this was record attendance in the time he has been there.

Gerald Jones is the associational Church Training director.

Triple A Adults Organize

The Senior Adults of First Church, Hattiesburg, met recently and organized, selecting the name Triple A Adults, (AAA) which stands for adventurous, alert, and active.

C. B. Hamlet, III, minister of visitation, is director, Mrs. T. Erskine Ross, III, is assistant and sponsor.

Hamlet challenged members to think of the group with a garden, "where we dig into God's word, plant seed that will widen our horizons, cultivate new friends. Then we are to weed our garden of bad habits, indifference, impatience, and eventually

harvest all our fruits and vegetables and share them." He assured the group they were not too old to learn some new tricks.

The Christian fellowship group plans to travel, and share various interests in Christian ministry. On tentative schedule for April 4 and 5, 1980, is a trip to Natchez Pilgrimage and Pageant.

The Triple A Adults will meet the first Friday of every month.

Brooks Wester is pastor of First Church, Hattiesburg, and Ferrell Blankenship is minister of education.

Names In The News . . .

John and Pauline Moore, emeritus missionaries to Switzerland and Turkey, may be addressed at P. O. Box 704, Brownwood, Texas 76801. A native of Mississippi, he was born in Clarksdale and grew up in Tupelo. They retired in 1978.

Denise Windom of Nola has been selected as an Outstanding Young Woman of America for 1979. She is a teens director of her own church (the former Denise Tyson of Jackson, she is the wife of Vance E. Windom, Jr., pastor of Nola Church) and associational Acteens director for Lawrence County.

Ann Rayburn, a senior at Union University, Jackson, Tenn., won the Collegiate Artist without Concerto piano competition Nov. 10. This event was sponsored by the Tennessee Music Teachers' Association annual convention, which was held Nov. 10-13 on Union's campus. Ann is currently pianist for the First Baptist Church, Jackson, Tennessee. She is the daughter of Tom F. Rayburn, pastor, First Church, Booneville, Miss., and Mrs. Rayburn.



Rayburn

Debbie Stewart, information consultant for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dallas, since July 1977, has been named public information director for Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention. Miss Stewart, who will marry Mark Wattier, a political science faculty member at Samford University, Birmingham, Dec. 15, will take office at WMU Feb 15. Terry Barone, 24, director of public relations at Hillcrest Baptist Hospital, Waco, Texas, succeeded Miss Stewart, 28, on Dec. 1 in Dallas. Miss Stewart will direct WMU's public relations publications and news and communications releases.

Jonathan Singleton, a native of Belzoni, was one of 16 students from Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, named to the 1979-80 edition of Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges. Singleton and his wife were appointed recently as missionaries to Dominica by the Foreign Mission Board. A 1972 graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, he expects to finish the required course work for the master of divinity degree at Midwestern in December.

Paul Harper, minister of music and youth at First Church, Lexington, was honored by the church at mid-week service Nov. 14. Wayne Barber, pastor, led in surprising Harper by having church members, former pastors, friends and family take part in giving recognition to him. Mrs. Loretta Rutledge, First Church secretary, presented a flower and corsage to Mr. and Mrs. Harper and the pastor presented a gift. Calvin Moore presented a money tree from the congregation.



LINDA SNELL (second from left), a Mississippi College senior from Hattiesburg, has been named the initial recipient of the AMANDA KELLY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP, established in memory of the first Mrs. Earl Kelly. The award is to be presented to a student at one of the Southern Baptist colleges or seminaries who is preparing for a church-related vocation. The recipients are selected by the trustees of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation, which administers the scholarship funds. Shown presenting the check to Miss Snell are (l-r) EARL KELLY, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention; HAROLD KITCHINGS, executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation; and Lewis Nobles, president of Mississippi College. — (M.C. Photo by Mark Berryhill)

Shoreline Park Church has ordained its first deacons, Red Hardy, H. C. Seal, Sr., Otis Bowen, Charles Miller, and Joe Johnston.



LIBERTY CHURCH on High Attendance Day, Nov. 4, presented pins for one year perfect attendance in Sunday School. Left to right: Charles Hollifield, pastor; Cheryl Seiber, Mrs. Ammie Lee McGee, adult Sunday School teacher; O. D. Judge, Jr., Sunday School director.

Jan. 1, 1979-Nov. 30, 1979

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Jerry and Glenda White, Korea, 715 East Northside Drive, Jackson; Wayne and Florence Frederick, Guadeloupe, 3331 Old Canton Road, Jackson; James and Mary Slack, Philippines, 407 N. 38th St., Hatties-

burg, Jerry and Bobbye Rankin, Indonesia, Pine Trail Apt. M5, Spring Ridge Road, Clinton;

Payton and Helen Myers, Nigeria, Route 1, Box 329, West Point; Paul D. and Brenda Lee, Spain, Box 1324, Starkville; Errol and Mary Simmons, Spain, 1000 Georgia Avenue, Hattiesburg; Gerald and Glenda Davis, Philippines, 502 Magazine St., Tupelo; Raymond and Ann Kolb, Brazil, 312 W. College St., Clinton;

James and Guinevere Young, Bangladesh, 1625 Easy St., Yazoo City; Elton and Dorothy Gray, Okinawa, 5746 Cherokee Drive, Walls;

Jimmy and Joan Barrentine, Paraguay, Box 68, Crystal Springs; Hal and Lou Ann Lee, France, Apt. M-7 Pine Trails Apts., Spring Ridge Road, Clinton; James and Zelma Foster, recently appointed to Surinam, 742 Woodlake, Jackson.

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Just For The Record . . .



CONCORD CHURCH, Rt. 2, Bruce, Calhoun County, burned a note recently, celebrating payment for an addition to the church which has four classrooms, kitchen, and fellowship hall. The ten-year note was paid in full in less than three years. Pictured are the pastor, Lowry Guest; deacon Elmer Collins; county missionary Marvin Bibb; and members of the Building

Committee, Pat Collins, Debbie Dunn, Ann Keeton, Teresa Dunn, Sonny Keeton, and Thomas Dunn. Debbie Dunn stated, "This Christmas is a very special time at Concord. As each of us gives a part of ourselves in service to the Lord, we are mindful of what God has given us."



DEACONS OF CALVARY CHURCH, QUITMAN, burned a note Nov. 20, before the church harvest supper — signifying that the church building is paid for. In the service, left to right, were VESTER DAVIS, THOMAS IVY, THOMAS DEARMAN, and CHARLES WRIGHT. The church was organized in 1964; the first meeting was Feb. 16 of that year. Early meetings were held in the homes of Miss Gertrude McRae and Mr. and Mrs. Sam Harris. The present pastor is A. R. McCorkle.



First Baptist Church, Clinton recently held a ground breaking service for an activities building. The pastor, Bill Baker, left, led in the service. Those participating also included Reuben Green, project contractor; Mose Dangerfield, building committee chairman; Glen Shows, minister of activities; Bob Wills, chairman of deacons; and Grover McDonald, representing the financial institution for the project, Debits Guaranty National Bank. The building will include full size gym, game room, crafts room with fireplace, office, check out room, storage room, ceramics room, ladies and mens dressing rooms, and snack area. It is expected to be completed by April 1, 1980.

Jones Students Witness To Hitchhiker

The Jones County Junior College Baptist Student Union held its Fall Retreat on November 9-10 at Citronelle Baptist Assembly, Citronelle, Ala. Forty-three attended. Cliff Estes, pastor of First Church of Glendale was the speaker.

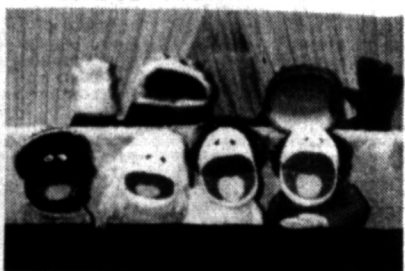
Many of the students found a new direction through the theme, "Which Way Next?" But the theme was probably best shown by Daniel.

John F. Sumner, Jr., BSU director, Jones County JC, reports, "Daniel was hitchhiking his way back to San Diego, CA. He stopped at the Assembly and was allowed to spend the night. The next day he became a part of the BSU group in spirit as well as activities. Daniel was saved!"

"God did not stop there. The interdenominational group in Citronelle gave Daniel a check for a bus ticket to San Diego, CA. He came back to Ellisville with the BSU group, and they gave him spending money.

"Which way next? What better way than Christ?"

The Word of God will stand a thousand readings; and he who has gone over it most frequently is the surest of finding new wonders there. — James Hamilton



THE PUPPET TEAM OF THE BAPTIST STUDENT UNION AT JONES COUNTY JUNIOR COLLEGE has performed at Ellisville State School, the Baptist Children's Home in Laurel, at the Jones County Association Youth Lock-In, and at the BSU Rock-A-Thon. They will give a repeat performance at the Children's Home, Dec. 23. Mary Lynn Wade is the puppet chairman and Charles Graves is the assistant. Other members of the team are Dianna Parker, Bobby Temple, Nelson Ingram, and Sarah Strickland.

Bellevue Church, Lamar Association, observed its 27th anniversary with homecoming Sunday, Dec. 9. Morning and afternoon services were held, and lunch was served at the church. James L. Yates is the pastor.

Rocky Point Church, Leake County, will present a Christmas cantata, "Noel, Jesus Is Born," under direction of the minister of music, Robert Bain, on Dec. 23 at 6:30 p.m. Soloists will be Jean Carpenter, Brenda and Timmy Johnston, Charlene and Lita Moore, and Timmy Tolleson. The pastor, Curtis James, will be the narrator. Mrs. Maggie Tolleson will direct the dramatic scenes, in which participants will be Wade Chipley, Mike, Goolsby, Shelia Goodwin, Ricky Grundy, Toby Johnston, Danny Purser, and Jeff and Travis Tolleson. The public is invited.

Devotional

One Day At A Time

By James L. Heflin, Pastor, First, Greenville
Matthew 6:34

I was driving toward home late one night and the road seemed interminable. There was no noise except the hum of the car wheels on the highway. I turned on the radio for company. When I flipped the switch a deep bass voice said: "You have 24 hours to live." Then there was a pause. After the man added: "Today." He got what he wanted — my attention. In that instant I had to reaffirm the profound truth that I have only 24 hours to live — today.

What I had heard was an aspirin advertisement. The ad was designed to expand the idea that, since you have today to enjoy life, do not let a headache spoil the day for you. Take our brand of aspirin. The idea for the ad was a good one.

Life comes to us one day at a time. We may waste mental energy regretting yesterday or while away time presuming upon tomorrow. Yet, life comes to us simply day by day.

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus cautions us against anxious concern for tomorrow. "Take no thought for the morrow" does not forbid us to make preparation for tomorrow. A wise person prepares to live his life. The words of Jesus mean that we should not let concern for tomorrow overwhelm us today. You could grow so worried about what the future will bring that you cannot face the present. No amount of anxiety will bring tomorrow sooner and no thought contains the power to change what will occur when it gets here.

Furthermore, Jesus reminds us that each day contains sufficient evil for itself. We live in a world full of trouble. Each day's report of the news brings another burden to lay on our hearts. Two of these put together would be more than we could stand. If you and I can handle one day, today, we have enough.

The secret for living one day at a time is found in the prayer of Matthew 6:9-13, known as the Lord's Prayer. "Give us this day our daily bread." God grants us our living day by day. Though he has much in store to give to his children, and though he intends the best for us, the Father grants our provision daily. We should make up our minds to live in accordance with his plan.

Tomorrow may not come. Yesterday belongs to the history books. Today is mine. Remember the instruction of our Lord. Take life one day at a time. Live each day to the fullest. That will free your mind from excessive care. That will speak of your obedience to the Master. When tomorrow gets here, if it does, you will be prepared for it.

Baptist Broadcasters In Mexico Comply With Stiff Regulations

By Jennifer Anderson

MEXICO CITY (BP) — Here's the situation: You're a Christian media specialist assigned to produce evangelistic programs for broadcast, but because of government regulations you can't use words like Bible or God.

Would you: (a) Quit; (b) Transfer to another country; (c) Try outdoor advertising?

"None of the above," answer a group of Baptist media specialists in Mexico City who face those exact obstacles. They've found something that works.

"Our content is religious but our program isn't," explains a convincing and enterprising Jim Watson. Watson is assistant to the director of Medios Educativos, the Baptist media group that occupies offices at Mexican Baptist Theological Seminary. Besides Watson, Medios is composed of David and Lorna Daniell, Southern Baptist

representatives to Mexico City; and Sofia Alarcon, a Mexican Baptist. Daniell is director, Miss Alarcon is general manager and Mrs. Daniell is graphic artist.

Medios Educativos is forced to do things differently because of Mexico's stiff radio broadcast regulations. Mexico's government requires programs to use a Mexican-born announcer and won't allow "God" or "Bible" to be aired. "But we can talk about 'the Word,' 'the Father,' 'Scriptures,' or 'the Creator,'" Watson says. "It's just one of those things in Mexico."

With these in mind, Medios Educativos has produced "Sabe Usted?" ("Did You Know?"), one of its most popular programs. The series takes an historical or scientific fact or a social issue, explores it by interviewing specialists in the country, then, in conclusion, makes a spiritual applica-

tion — all in compliance with government mandates.

For instance, one "Sabe Usted?" starts up with a strong, fast-beat song leading into the Mexican announcer's introduction to the program. This particular broadcast deals with the importance of vaccinations against disease.

A prominent Mexican physician is interviewed on the topic, then a government health department official airs his views. Wrapping it up the announcer tells the audience that a "vaccination for sin is a new life in Christ." He reads II Corinthians 5 from the Scriptures: "Therefore, if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation."

Letters from across Mexico express people's interest in knowing more. In the case of one woman who was contemplating suicide, "Sabe Usted?" helped her find a new life — she became a believer.

Life and Work Lesson

The Messianic Hope

By Thomas Baddley
First Church, Brandon
II Samuel 7; Isaiah 9;
John 18:33-37

Modern marketing experts know the value of playing on the anticipation of people. Each year pre-Thanksgiving sales seem to start a little earlier, and Santa's helpers arrive at stores and malls in mid-November. We have been taught to look ahead and plan accordingly.

As we approach the Christmas season, we need to remember that Jesus did not come to an unprepared world. The Jewish people had been promised a Messiah, and they never fully gave up the hope that was based on God's promise. In previous weeks, we have studied scriptures which showed that, although the atmosphere may have been gloomy, there still was a glimpse of hope. Why did they continue to hope?

I. Promise To David (II Samuel 7)
During a temporary time of peace David reflected on God's presence and the way the people showed praise and respect. He noted that the ark of God was still housed in temporary mobile quarters. He proposed to build a permanent appropriate structure to house the ark.

Through Nathan, the prophet, God intervened. He postponed the building but gave a series of promises to David: (1) Israel would have peace and freedom from foreign oppression (v. 10), (2) the Davidic line of kingship would endure forever (vv. 12-13), (3) God would guide the succession of kings by chastening when they went astray (v. 14), (4) the seeds of the promise of a messiah are carried in this covenant. His line would be kept forever. As such, it was a strong source of hope for the future (v. 16). However, the popular national theology prior to the exile saw the Davidic promise as a basis for a naive belief that Israel was invincible. It was (and still is) dangerous to presume upon God. It led to a disillusionment after the Babylonian conquest.

II. Promise Through Isaiah (9:2, 6-7)

Isaiah was God's man in the midst of turbulent times. The Northern Kingdom of Israel had fallen but Judah was saved by a miracle of the Lord (Isaiah 37:33-37). Now God spoke through Isaiah foretelling the fall of Judah at the hands of the Babylonians and of the

subsequent return of a remnant. But, more importantly and more abundantly than any other prophet, he wrote of the coming and ministry of Christ.

In the beautiful hymn contained in the focal verses we have a description of the Messiah. Looking ahead, it offered hope; looking back from today, we see fulfillment. Isaiah's descriptive language still helps us to see Jesus and have a broader understanding of the messianic task.

(1) "A child . . . a man" helps us understand who He is and what He does. From the humble beginning as a child, he grew to become a man in whom was revealed His nature and work. The government on His shoulders referred to His role as ruler in the total realm of nature as well as in the spiritual realm.

(2) "Wonderful Counselor" or more literally "wonder of a counselor" describes the unique effect of his teaching and counsel. It was teaching, not from what He had learned from others, but out of His own being. It was teaching with authority.

(3) "The mighty God" stresses Jesus' victory over His enemies. His might and power are unmatched by any human or super human powers.

(4) "The everlasting Father" — As John attempted in the opening verse of his gospel, so Isaiah gives an affirmation of the pre-existent, eternal nature and oneness of God. He has and demonstrates constant and enduring, endless care of his people.

(5) "The Prince of Peace" describes the provider of a lifestyle. Where Christ rules, there is peace. The condition of yieldedness to the Prince of Peace gives us a foretaste of what it will be like when Christ reigns over all.

Only as God revealed and inspired could Isaiah have written prophetically about the things in verse 7. Ceaseless increase and peace; a king from the lineage of David; justice and judgment; performed by the zeal of God. Herein is hope with a "handle." Herein is a description of a king with whom no other can compare except Jesus Christ, King of Kings, Lord of Lords. So the people looked forward, hoping and waiting until Jesus came.

III. The Ultimate Fulfillment (John 18:33-37)

"Are you the King of the Jews" (v. 36)? The prophets told of a coming

king. Now the Jews rejected Jesus and were used as an accusation against Jesus the claim that He was King.

John's account of the trial is a skillful blending of history and theology. When Pilate questioned Jesus about his kingship, these were his first words to Jesus. His other comments (v. 35) indicate that he probably knew Jesus only by what Jesus' accusers had told him.

Jesus did not reply to Pilate's question in verse 35, but returned to the original question of verse 33. Pilate thought in terms of a political kingdom which might pose a threat to Roman rule. Jesus neither affirmed nor denied his kingship, but spoke in different categories of a kingdom "not from the world" (v. 36). Only those who recognized Jesus as pointing to the truth, who heard him positively, and who responded could know what kind of kingdom Jesus meant and what kind of king he was (v. 37).

In a few brief words Jesus eased Pilate's fears about insurrection. At the same time he placed the judge on trial. Pilate was brought to an encounter with the truth of God in Christ. In his efforts to be natural he rejected the truth.

Conclusion

Through the history of Israel, God continued to offer hope to his people. This was not a note of optimism that things would get better and better. Rather it was a message of God's presence, care, and purpose for his people even when all seemed lost. Ultimately God's promises were fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Yet as in every age only the eyes of faith could recognize the promise of God.

Popular optimism is evident in our day in a variety of ways. Numerous cults and messianic movements such as that of Sun Myung Moon compete with claims of Christianity. From another perspective, many Americans have placed their hope in arms and technology to solve our great national problems. This has led us to react at the last minute to, or ignore, crises rather than deal with them honestly and realistically. The competition of cults and culture make it difficult for many modern Christians to live out of a posture of hope in God's redemptive purposes.

Uniform Lesson

Christ Sovereign In Our Lives

By Ed North, First, Quitman

Colossians 3:1-14

Wordsworth said it years ago: "The world is too much with us!" What an apt description of the plight of the church in this generation! Our commitment has been diffused among a score of "little gods." Preaching has degenerated into a popularity contest, with pulpits personalities developing a clientele instead of a congregation. Critical moral and spiritual decisions revolve around vested interests. We have lost sight of our Source and Savior.

Paul calls the Colossians back from the edge of heresy to a new and deeper acknowledgement of the sovereignty of Christ in the life of the believer. He is to be the focus of, and the pattern for, our lives.

I. Sovereign In Our Concerns (vv. 1-4)

The believer is both "dead" (v. 3) and "risen with Christ" (v. 1). He is dead to sin and self, and alive to the presence and purpose of Christ. Paul makes it crystal clear: " . . . Christ, who is our life . . ." (v. 4).

Therefore, our chief concern is to "seek those things which are above . . ." (v. 1). Our focus is to be on Christ. There is a distinctly Christian mindset (v. 2) in which the believer concentrates on spiritual matters. This does not involve preoccupation with the spiritual to the exclusion of this present world, but it does affirm the priority of the things of God. Christ is Lord of the Christian's mental attitudes and concerns.

The mark of a person's Christianity is the attitude and the altitude of his life. We may not always live up to the high standards of Jesus, but if we aspire to His ideal we will rise above the ordinary. If our lives are centered on Christ we will live on a higher plane than those who focus on lesser gods.

The secret to a "higher altitude" is found in the phrase " . . . and your life is hid with Christ in God" (v. 3). The problem with many of the Colossian Christians is that they had been caught up in the latest religious trends which gave emphasis to externals. Pure activism is always a temptation within the church. The best Christian is the busiest Christian.

Paul refutes this concept and contends for the hidden life. It is the inner, soul-deep relationship with Christ which is the source of our spiritual power. Unless he is Lord of the inner life, unless the focus of our very being is upon Him, we will live petty, miserable, defeated lives. We live as high as we think. Therefore, Paul says, "Set your affection (mind) on things above, not on things on the earth" (v. 2).

II. Sovereign In Our Conduct (vv. 5-14)

Paul calls for a morality based upon the claims of Christ. He contrasts the conduct of the non-Christian, "In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them" (v. 7), with the conduct of the believer. The familiar metaphors of the "old man" and the "new man" are used.

The lists of the sins of fleshly appetites (v. 5) and attitudes (v. 8) are suggestive rather than exhaustive. The injunction to "mortify . . . your members" is not a rejection of the physical body, but a recognition of the need to eliminate its control of one's life. The "old man" is dominated by the appetites of the flesh. Such appetites are sovereign in his life. His lord is unredeemed sexuality, alcohol, drugs, perversion, gluttony, etc. He is also subject to evil attitudes which ultimately control his actions (v. 8).

Therefore, the "old man" is under the wrath of God (v. 6). God's wrath is not an emotion, but His just dealing with sin in which man's choice is permitted to have its consequences in his life. We choose our own punishment when we choose our course of conduct.

This means that a conscious effort must be made to "put off the old man with his deeds" (v. 9), and to "put on the new man . . ." (v. 10). The "new man" bears the image of God, and is a state of continual spiritual growth (v. 10). For him " . . . Christ is all, and in all" (v. 11).

The moral nature of the "new man" stands in sharp contrast to that of the "old man." Because of who he is in relationship to God ("the elect") the Christian is characterized by mercy, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, acceptance, and a forgiving

spirit (vv. 12-13). In Paul's graphic language the Christian is clothed in these virtues. And, binding it all together, like a top coat, is love (v. 14). Love draws us together individually and corporately, and gives unity to our conduct.

Paul insists that "notable Christians are to be noticeably Christian." Conduct is the reflection of conscience. If Jesus has become Lord of our inner being, He has become Lord of our outward expressions. Morality is rooted in relationship. We live as Christians because we are Christ's.

The great problem of the Mosaic law, especially as it was expanded into rules and regulations without number, was that it tended to exist as an external. It was the law acting upon the Jew from the outside. Therefore, morality came to be understood in terms of principles rather than people.

The great problem of the Mosaic morality" is its focus on people apart from guiding principles. Not many of us are spiritually mature enough to know what "the most loving thing" is in a given situation without some guidelines to help us.

Paul affords valuable insight with his emphasis on morality rooted in our relationship with Christ. Morality is personal and relational, but it is not unprincipled. Morality for the Christian is to be found in the life of Christ. We are to focus upon Him and accept His Lordship of our concerns and our conduct.

Paris, France — Jeremia Hodoroaba, pastor of Romanian Baptist Church in Paris, and another pastor have been allowed to visit four of Romania's largest Baptist churches. Hodoroaba, who also is the Romanian-language director of Trans World Radio (TWR), made the four-day trip with Paul Freed, director of TWR. The two pastors addressed large assemblies where hundreds came forward to thank them for their daily broadcasts. Hodoroaba also taught the first fall class at the Romanian Baptist Theological Seminary, Bucharest, an institution begun by Southern Baptists.